





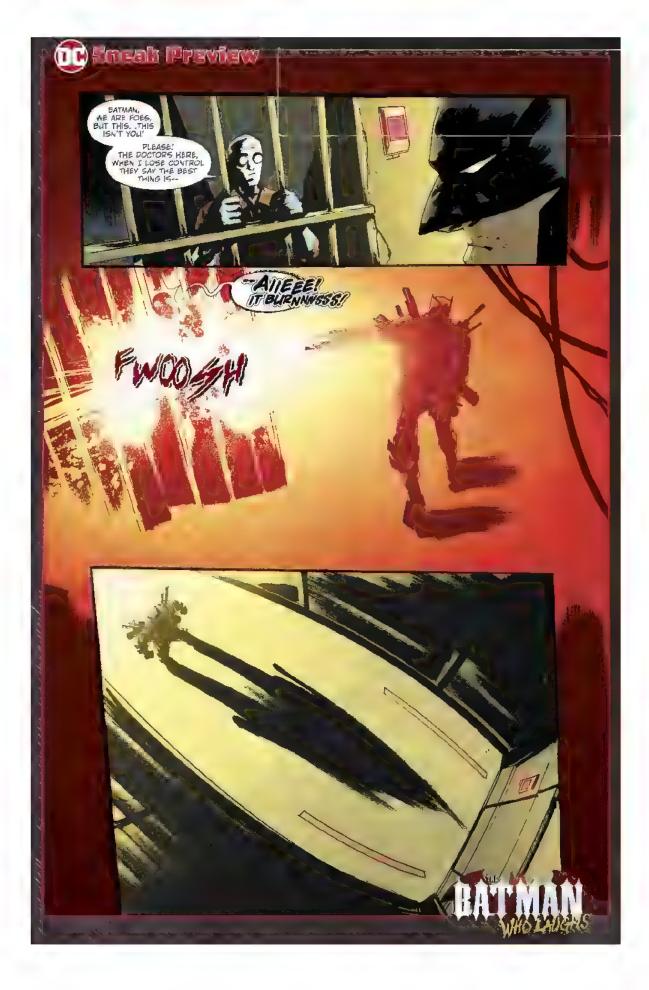
He's back to finish what he started in

DARK NIGHT/

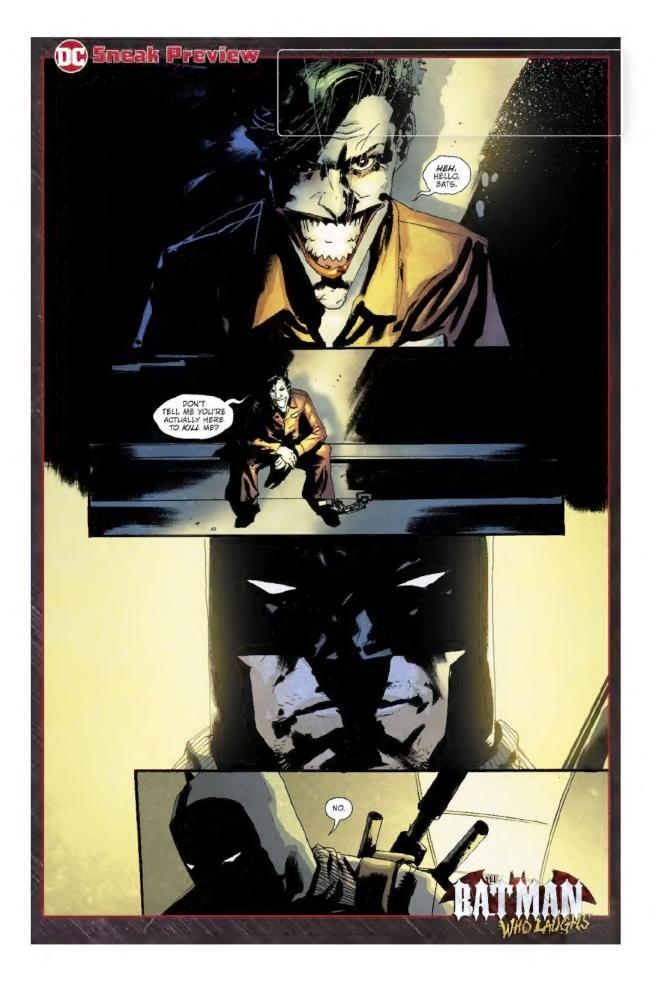
















BETWEEN THE PANELS: PETER J. TOMASI

The DETECTIVE COMICS writer details his plans for the Dark Knight as he reunites with artist Doug Mahnke and builds toward the landmark issue #1000

DC Nation: You've been involved with Batman on some level as an editar and writer for almost two decades. What is it about this character and his world that keeps you coming back with more to say each time? Hands down, Batman's my favorite character. He was the first to be burned into my comics-reading DNA during my all-important formative years by writers like Bill Finger, Gardner Fox, Denny O' Neil, Steve Englehart, Len Wein, Gerry Conway, Doug Moench, Mike W. Barr and the great Frank Miller, whose BATMAN: YEAR ONE is still a story I read once a year to remind myself how to tell a lean and mean Batman tale. What I love about being involved with Batman, be it when I was an editor or now as a writer, is that he transcends all genres, You can put Batman anywhere and he works.

The first scene in your initial arc of DETECTIVE COMICS involves the bodies of Bruce Wayne's parents reappearing in an unexpected way. What can you tell us about this shocker and how it affects Batman?

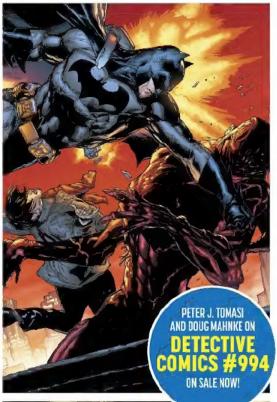
That opening scene lights the fuse of a big mystery. I love to pull the layers back on Batman as to what makes him tick. The yellow sticky note on my computer this time around says: to wear the cape and cowl sometimes you have to wage war on yourself. I always like to keep the main idea in front of my eyes when writing; it keeps me focused and always steers me back toward the central idea if I find myself getting off track.

Who's your personal favorite of Batman's extensive ropues gallery?

I loved writing the Joker and Two-Face during my Batman and Rabin run. Those "Death of the Family" issues were a blast, and Patrick Gleason scared the crap outta me with his renditions of the Clown Prince of Crime and Two-Face in our "Big Burn" story line. Not only do I want to play with the classic boddies, I also want to crash a few new rogues into Batman's gallery along the way and see what has staying power.

You've collaborated with artist Doug Mahnke in the past, but this is the first time you've booked a trip together to Gotham. What are Doug's greatest strengths and how have your past partnerships prepared you for this project?

Doug's greatest strength as an artist is exactly what makes an amazing comic book: he's a natural born storyteller. What I like best about Doug's work is that he's a perfect fit for the way I approach my own storytelling: character comes first. Doug can deliver on the smallest dramatic moment or a massive epic battle without missing a beat.





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